

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance are requested.

The claims stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. §112, second paragraph as allegedly being indefinite. The term "connecting/breaking" is amended to "connecting and breaking" to address the Examiner's concern. Moreover, the phrase "adapted to" objected to by the Examiner in lines 3 and 7 of claim 9 is removed. The clause in line 3 now reads "each of the serially-connected jacks constructed to receive a plug," and the clause in line 7 now reads "the connecting and breaking mechanism configured to be operated by a pin of a plug inserted in the respective jack." Withdrawal of the rejection is requested.


Applicants note the indication of allowable subject matter in claims 12-15. Claim 9 incorporates the subject matter of claims 11 and 12. Claims 13-15 are rewritten in independent claim format. Accordingly, the prior art rejection is moot.

The application is in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

NIXON & VANDERHYE P.C.

By:



John R. Lastova
Reg. No. 33,149

JRL:maa
901 North Glebe Road, 11th Floor
Arlington, VA 22203-1808
Telephone: (703) 816-4000
Facsimile: (703) 816-4100